

## SPOTS ON THE SILVER

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TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir.—Like your correspondent, Major-General Allen, I am responsible for the care of the table silver, and like him have been troubled with "ugly black spots." Until about a year ago, using in the water one of the modern detergents, I had no trouble at all. When it first developed I tried in succession most of the different brands of detergent on the market, but the black spots continued to appear with them all. I now use a pure soap flake and the trouble has ceased.

I can only assume that the chemical content of the detergents may have been slightly changed during the past year, just sufficiently to cause this reaction on silver. The black spots seem to occur in places where pieces of vegetable matter have adhered to the fork or spoon. They may be removed, with perseverance, by rubbing with a dampened thumb dipped in plate powder (even though our thumbs may not be as broadly spatulate as those of the erstwhile butler).

If Major-General Allen will soak a piece of Turkish towelling in a solution of two tablespoonfuls each of plate powder and ammonia stirred together in one pint of boiling water, leave it to dry out thoroughly and then use it for drying his silver, he will find that the operations of drying and polishing are combined in one and that the condition of his silver will do credit to any butler. The piece of towelling requires to be re-impregnated about once a month.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

KILMAINE.

The Mount House, Brasted, Kent.

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KILMAINE.

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